

**EXHIBIT A**  
**PENDING CLAIMS**  
**U.S. Serial No. 09/592,685 (4100.000582; UM 926 P2C1)**

1  
~~48.~~ (Thrice Amended) A method for binding a latent transforming growth factor  $\beta$  (TGF- $\beta$ ) protein in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide under conditions effective to allow binding of said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide to said latent TGF- $\beta$  protein; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide specifically binds to latent TGF- $\beta$ 1 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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~~48.~~ (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~48~~, wherein said sample is located within an animal and said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide is administered to said animal in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$  in said animal.

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~~44.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of binding latent TGF- $\beta$ , comprising contacting a composition comprising latent TGF- $\beta$  with a composition comprising a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$ ; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide specifically binds to latent TGF- $\beta$ 1 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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~~45.~~ (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein said composition comprising latent TGF- $\beta$  is located within an animal and said composition comprising said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide is administered to said animal in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$  in said animal.

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~~46.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of binding latent TGF- $\beta$ , comprising providing to an animal a composition comprising a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$  in said animal; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide specifically binds to latent TGF- $\beta$ 1 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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~~52.~~ (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  regulates TGF- $\beta$  activity in said animal.

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~~53.~~ (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  modulates the activation of TGF- $\beta$  in said animal.

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54. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  modulates the activation of latent complexes that comprise TGF- $\beta$ , thereby regulating TGF- $\beta$  activity.

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55. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  targets TGF- $\beta$  to the extracellular matrix in said animal.

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56. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  targets TGF- $\beta$  to the bone matrix in said animal.

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57. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  targets TGF- $\beta$  to connective tissues in said animal.

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58. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  targets TGF- $\beta$  to the cell surface of cells in said animal.

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59. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  protects latent TGF- $\beta$  from proteolytic attack and activation in said animal.

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60. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein LTBP-3 binding to latent TGF- $\beta$  protects latent TGF- $\beta$  from proteolytic attack and activation during wound repair or tissue healing in said animal.

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61. (Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide is a recombinant protein or polypeptide prepared by expressing an LTBP-3-encoding DNA segment in a recombinant host cell and purifying the expressed LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide away from total recombinant host cell components.

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62. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~46~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein said latent TGF- $\beta$  is located within a tissue healing, wound repair tissue site or bone progenitor tissue site of said animal and wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide is provided to said tissue site.

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63. (Amended) The method of claim ~~62~~<sup>16</sup>, wherein said latent TGF- $\beta$  is located within a tissue healing or wound repair tissue site of said animal.

<sup>18</sup>  
~~64.~~ (Amended) The method of claim <sup>16</sup>~~62~~, wherein said latent TGF- $\beta$  is located within a bone progenitor tissue site of said animal.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~65.~~ (Amended) The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~46~~, wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide comprises at least about thirty contiguous amino acids present in SEQ ID NO:4.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~70.~~ (Amended) The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~46~~, wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide comprises at least about fifty contiguous amino acids present in SEQ ID NO:4.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~72.~~ (Amended) The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~46~~, wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide exhibits between 91% and about 99% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

<sup>22</sup>  
~~74.~~ (Amended) The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~46~~, wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

<sup>23</sup>  
~~75.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of binding latent TGF- $\beta$  within an extracellular matrix or connective tissue site of an animal, comprising contacting said tissue site with a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$  in said animal; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide specifically binds to latent TGF- $\beta$ 1 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

<sup>24</sup>  
~~76.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of binding latent TGF- $\beta$  within a repair or bone progenitor tissue site of an animal, comprising contacting said tissue site with a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$  in said animal; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide specifically binds to latent TGF- $\beta$ 1 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

<sup>25</sup>  
~~78.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of binding latent TGF- $\beta$ , comprising administering to an animal a composition comprising a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind latent TGF- $\beta$  in said animal; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide binds latent TGF- $\beta$  and comprises at least fifteen contiguous amino acids present in SEQ ID NO:4 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

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79. (New) A method of binding a latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  that comprises mature TGF- $\beta$  and latency associated peptide (LAP), said method comprising contacting a composition comprising said latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  with a composition comprising a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind to said latent complex of TGF- $\beta$ ; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide specifically binds to latent TGF- $\beta$ 1 and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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80. (New) The method of claim <sup>26</sup>79, wherein said composition comprising said latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  is located within an animal and said composition comprising said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide is administered to said animal in an amount effective to bind to said latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  in said animal.

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81. (New) A method of binding a latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  that comprises mature TGF- $\beta$  and latency associated peptide (LAP), said method comprising providing to an animal a composition comprising a purified mammalian LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide in an amount effective to bind to LAP in a latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  in said animal; wherein said LTBP-3 protein or polypeptide binds to LAP in said latent complex of TGF- $\beta$  and exhibits at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.